

REMARKS

I. Amendments to the Drawings

This amendment changes reference numerals in Figures 13, 15A, and 15B. These changes correspond to amendments made in the specification described below.

II. Amendments to the Specification

Applicants have corrected various reference numerals for objects depicted in the figures on pages 35-38.

III. Amendments to the Claims

Applicants have made amendments to the claims to more clearly define the subject matter of the invention. Independent claim 1 has been canceled and independent claim 37 has been added. Claims 2-14 and 17 have been amended so that claims 2-17 now depend from claim 37. Independent claim 18 has been canceled and independent claim 38 has been added. Claims 19-31 and 34 have been amended so that claims 19-34 now depend from claim 37. Claims 35 and 36 have been canceled. Claims 39 and 40 have been added. Thus, claims 2-17, 19-34, and 37-40 are presently pending.

Newly-added claims 37-40 are allowable over the previously-applied reference because none of the cited references teach or suggest a method of, or an apparatus for, creating an identification file corresponding to the identification code, where the identification file is read from the envelope by a plurality of nodes on the mailpiece sorting system including at least one node on a sorting system of a receiving post office. In addition, none of the cited references teach or suggest a method of, or an apparatus

for, using the identification code read from the mailpiece to retrieve information from the corresponding identification file for sorting the mailpiece at a plurality of nodes on the mailpiece sorting system including at least one node on the sorting system of the receiving post office.


In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: October 18, 2004

By: 
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Attachment: Replacement Drawings